CLAIMS

1.   Apparatus for displaying to a user a web page session for a web application, said web page session displaying a plurality of associated collaborative portlets, sharing information with each other, accessible by said user comprising:

a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to said web application;

a portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on said portal server;

access means to access a rules database adapted to store rules;

said rules comprising rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users; and

selection means to select a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed to a user based on information provided by said user.

2.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said selection means comprises a pluggable rules engine and a portlet application aggregation engine which selects rules from said rules database and applies rules to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user as required.

3.   Apparatus for displaying to a user a web page session for a web application, said web page session displaying a plurality of associated collaborative portlets, sharing information with each other, accessible by said user comprising:

a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to said web application;

a portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on said portal server;

roles access means to access a roles database;

said roles database containing rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users based on user roles; and

role selection means to select a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed to a user based on an identified role of said user as required.

4.   Apparatus for supporting the selection of portal resources for a user based on business rules for a collection of associated portlets operating on a portal server comprising:

a rules database for storing display rules;

access means to access said rules database;

said rules comprising rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users;

selection means to select a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed to a user based on information provided by said user as required.

5.   The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said selection means includes a rules engine which applies rules from said rules database to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user.

6.   The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said selection means includes a rules engine and a portlet application aggregation engine which applies rules from said rules database to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user.

7.   The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said selection means comprises a pluggable rules engine, and a portlet application aggregation engine which applies rules from said rules database to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user.

8.   Apparatus for supporting the selection of portal resources for a user based on business rules for a collection of associated portlets operating on a portal server comprising:

a portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on said portal server;

a roles database;

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said roles database containing rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users based on user roles;

roles access means to access said roles database;

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role selection means to select a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed to a user based on an identified role of said user.

9. A method for displaying to a user a web page session for a web

10 application, said web page session displaying a plurality of associated collaborative portlets, sharing information with each other, accessible by said user comprising:

operating a web portal or a portal server to provide access to said

15 web application;

managing a collection of associated portlets with a portlet application, for operating on said portal server;

20 accessing a rules database storing rules;

said rules comprising rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users;
selecting a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed

25 to a user based on information provided by said user as required.

10. A method for supporting the selection of portal resources for a user based on business rules for a collection of associated portlets operating on a portal server comprising:

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providing a rules database for storing display rules; said rules comprising rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users;

35 accessing said rules database;

selecting a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed to a user based on information provided by said user as required.

40 11. The method of claim 10 wherein a rules engine is used to apply rules from said rules database to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user.

12.   The method of claim 11 wherein said a rules engine and a portlet application aggregation engine apply rules from said rules database to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user.

13.   The method of claim 9 wherein a pluggable rules engine, and a portlet application aggregation engine apply rules from said rules database to select and display selected portlets, pages, and page groups to a user.

14.   A method for supporting the selection of portal resources for a user based on business rules for a collection of associated portlets operating on a portal server comprising:

        for managing a collection of associated portlets with a portlet application operating on said portal server;

        providing a roles database;

        said roles database containing rules controlling display of sets of portlets, pages, page groups to users based on user roles;

        accessing said roles database;

        selecting a set of portlets, pages, and page groups to be displayed to a user based on an identified role of said user.

15.   An article comprising:

        a computer readable signal bearing medium;

        computer program code means recorded on said medium adapted to perform the method of any of claims 10 to 13.

16.   An article comprising:

        a computer readable signal bearing medium;

        computer program code means recorded on said medium adapted to implement the apparatus of any of claims 1 to 8.